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|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/632,677 | BRYANT ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | John R. Paradiso | 3721 | / |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS**. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to election filed 3/24/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16 and 22.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/23/04
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S COMMENTS

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Invention I, claims 1-19 and 22, in the reply filed on 3/24/2005 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that "a search of all the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office." This is not found persuasive because the two inventions have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Drawings

2. The drawings filed on 8/1/2003 are acceptable subject to correction of the following informalities:

- a. All photographs must be distinct enough to provide for legible reproduction upon printing;
- b. Formal drawings must be provided to replace the informal drawings present in the file.

In order to avoid abandonment of this application, correction is required in reply to the Office action. The correction will not be held in abeyance.

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dr. Thomas Barnes on June 13, 2005.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

- c. Claims 17-21 and 23 have been cancelled.

5. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the cancelled claims in a Divisional Continuation.

Reasons for Allowance

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art could not alone or in combination anticipate or make obvious an apparatus for wrapping articles in stretchable film including means for holding the film in a planar web across an opening, means for pushing the article through the opening, and a film gathering, sealing, and trimming means adjacent the opening operative between two stages: a first stage for gather the film in a flattened condition, and a second stage in which the film is gathered into a necked down condition, after which a sealer trims and seals the excess material around the gathered area.

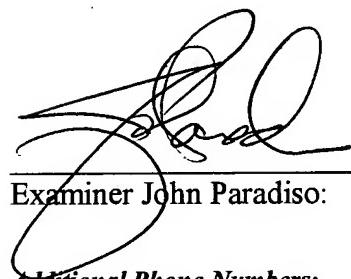
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Paradiso. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday, 9:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (ET).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada, can be reached at the number listed below.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the 3700 Technology Center Receptionist.



Examiner John Paradiso: (571) 272-4466

June 13, 2005

Additional Phone Numbers:

Supervisor Rinaldi Rada: (571) 308-7135
Fax (Official): (703) 872-9306
Fax (Direct to Examiner) (571) 273-4466 (Drafts only)